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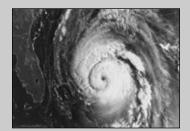


Training is under way for the next shuttle mission -STS-95.



JSC helping community by providing on-site location for old phone book recycling.

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It's that time of year again hurricane season. Find out how to be prepared.

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Inspection 98 planning is hitting its stride as coordinators plan for the October event.

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Incubator to help business use technology

By Audrey Schwartz-Rivers

Combine advanced technologies developed for human space flight at JSC with the University of Houston's science and business acumen, and Texas gains an innovative resource to take its high-technology sector to new heights.

The UH-NASA Technology Commercialization Incubator is designed to help local small and mid-sized businesses commercialize space technology. NASA plans to con-

tribute \$1.2 million over three years to the project. The University of Houston provides the commercialization and research expertise of its science, business and engineering faculties. In addition, UH houses the incubator facilities.

"This is a major step in forming a relationship among the university, government and industry and carries out an important part of UH's mission. We will have a significant impact in Houston," said Arthur

Vailas, UH vice president for research and vice provost for graduate studies.

NASA has developed tens-ofthousands of cutting edge technologies in its quest to explore space, many with the potential to be applied to Earth-based problems. Unfortunately, the private sector often does not know about them or lacks the know-how to modify space technology for terrestrial applications.

The business technology incuba-

tor is an important tool NASA can use to promote commercially viable uses of publicly developed technology," said Hank Davis, director of JŠC's Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office. "NASApatented technology can be licensed by entrepreneurs who, with the help of the business incubator, can bring to market new commercial products.

"The University of Houston provides a vital element by analyzing Please see UNIVERSITY, Page 8



Astronaut Andy Thomas, second from left, gets a warm greeting from STS-91 Commander Charlie Precourt at Ellington Field after completing four and a half months of longduration space flight aboard the Russian Mir Space Station and closing out the continuous American presence on Mir. Joining Precourt in welcoming Thomas on Sunday are JSC Director George Abbey, far left, and Phase 1 Program Manager Frank Culbertson.

Twenty-five in 1998 astronaut class

Eight candidates already members of JSC work force

Twenty-five women and men will make up the astronaut candidate class of 1998, which will begin one year of training and evaluation at JSC in mid-August.

This year's class consists of eight pilot and 17 mission specialist candidates, including Barbara Morgan, who was named as an educator mission specialist in January. Of the 25 class members, 21 are male and four are

Eight of the candidates already live in the

Clear Lake area and work in various capacities at JSC.

The new class members are: Clayton C. Anderson; Lee J. Archambault (Maj., USAF); Tracy E. Caldwell, Ph.D.; Gregory E. Chamitoff, Ph.D.; Timothy J. Creamer (Maj., USA); Christopher J. Ferguson (Lt. Cmdr., USN); Michael J. Foreman (Cmdr., USN); Michael E. Fossum; Kenneth T. Ham (Lt. Cmdr., USN); Patricia C. Hilliard, M.D.;

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Discovery's landing begins second phase

As Discovery glided out of a cloud-speckled sky and rolled to a smooth landing last Friday, bringing the Phase 1 shuttle-Mir docking program to a close, astronauts and agency managers turned their full attention to the next phase—construction of the International Space Station.

Commander Charlie Precourt, fresh from his third visit to the 12-year-old Russian outpost, presented three legacies to Phase 1 Program Manager Frank Culbertson and

NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin "in hopes that they can pass these to the first crews that go to the International Space Station, symbolically leading them with the lessons learned from Phase 1."

The mementos included an American flag that hung on the wall of Mir for every press event by American astronauts, an EVA tool used by the Russians on Mir and an optical disk used to collect scientific data during Phase 1.



"The flag of our country is hundreds of years old. This wrench is a space tool which is tens of years old. And this disk is new technology, which is years old," Goldin said. "This is all symbolic because we're moving ahead, we're not moving backwards. This is also symbolic of the incredible change we've had in our world. When we started out, we didn't know each other. Now, we really know the Russians and we know with certainty that we're going to open up the universe to benefit life on this planet.

Culbertson vowed to take good care of the items, and with the help of his Russian counterpart, Valery Ryumin, who had just returned to Earth after his first visit to Mir aboard Discovery, "put them to good use."

"I am extremely happy that we were able to do what we set out to do, which was to take seven Americans to the Mir and bring them home safely," Culbertson said. "But even better, we learned how to work better together in space. We're better prepared to operate the International Space Station and we did what we said we were going to do. We will do what we say we are going to do in the future.'

Precourt piloted Discovery to an on-time touchdown at 1 p.m. CDT June 12 at Kennedy Space Center, wrapping Please see THOMAS, Page 2

American Heritage Week

Team NASA presents fifth annual JSC cultural diversity celebration

JSC will celebrate the diverse cultural backgrounds of its employees, which meld to form a dynamic and well-rounded work force, with its fifth annual American Heritage Week July

This year, for the first time, the celebration will involve participation by the entire "Team NASA"—the JSC civil service and contractor employees throughout the Clear Lake area.

"American Heritage Week celebrates the diverse heritage of the entire 'Team NASA,'" said Equal Opportunity Programs Director Estella Hernandez Gillette. "Employees, families and friends of JSC and our aerospace partners come together to

celebrate the similarities that bring us together as well as the differences that allow us to learn and grow together."

Entertainment and exhibits will be presented during the week at the Bldg. 3 cafeteria during lunch and during the grand finale on July 10 beginning at 1 p.m. with a mini-parade around the center, then the grand opening at 3 p.m. at the Gilruth Center.

Entertainers will include the Star Spangled Brass, Cesky' Folklorini Soubor 2 Gtexasu, Jhankar School of Dancing Priyanka Patel, Indian Dancer; O'Maoileidigh Irish Dancers of Houston; Chinese Senior Association of Houston; Almost Good ol' Boys, the

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Employees get one-time chance for retirement switch

JSC civil service employees covered under the Civil Service Retirement System will be given the opportunity to transfer to the Federal **Employees Retirement System during** a one-time "open season" that runs from July 1-Dec. 31.

This open season is the result of recent legislation passed by Congress and will be a governmentwide event. Any permanent or term employee covered under either CSRS or CSRS offset is eligible.

Each employee's latest SF-50 Notice of Personnel Action Block 30 will show under which system they are being covered. Employees also may contact Employee Services at x32681

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